



2025 General Assembly Delegate Nominees



Victoria (Vicki) Antonini began attending First U in November of 2017 when she was looking for a spiritual home after the US presidential election result. She has been a lifelong Unitarian Universalist in spirit but didn't realize there was a name for what she believed until she heard about it in 2016. She signed the membership book in the spring of 2018 and has served in a number of leadership positions at First U. She currently serves on the Standing

Committee for the Board of Trustees, is the Secretary for the Women's Leadership Alliance, and was part of the core founding group for our new Brooklyn Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (BUUJME) chapter of the national UUA affiliate UUJME. Vicki is currently serving on Rachel Schmitt's internship committee and previously served on Intern Karen Madrone's. She was also previously the co-chair for the Weaving Social Justice Committee at First U. A lifelong public school educator, Vicki is currently in transition after a 29 year career with the NYC Public School system, having served as an English teacher, literacy coach, and high school assistant principal and principal. She is the founder and executive director of her own anti oppressive leadership consulting, coaching and mentoring company: Brave Elephant Learning Lab, and is currently enrolled in Trudi Lebrón's Equity-Centered Coaching Certification program.



Ian Holmes (They/Them) You've probably seen Ian around First U and might recognize him from his dyed hair or his passion for wearing pastels. By the time of the 2025 General Assembly, he will have been attending services at First U for about two years. In that time, he will have attended Young Adult Ministry (YAM) events, an Immigrant Solidarity Committee (ISC) meeting or two, Queer Community Brunches, and the Board's various listening sessions. Ian is honored that in his first year at First U, he was selected to serve as a delegate for the 2024 Virtual

GA. Ian is the co-founder and co-chairing the Social Justice Committee (SJC) with Emily Hockaday. Through the SJC, Emily, Kate Caudill, and Ian represent First U at the New York UUs for Justice statewide advocacy conference in Albany last fall.



Lisa Pacenza has been a member of First U for over two decades, and is currently serving as treasurer of the Women's Leadership Alliance. Lisa served two years on the First U board, the last as co-President, while participating on the Finance Committee. She is proud to have represented First U at GA twice before, and looks forward to the opportunity to once again participate in our larger community to benefit our congregation.



Lee Pardee has been attending First U for 40 years and has served the congregation in many ways. She is currently the congregation's treasurer and coordinates the Sunday usher/greeters and our Shawl Ministry. For the past two years she has organized bi-lingual UU services in Sunset Park on Sunday evenings, with the goal of growing Unitarian Universalism in Brooklyn. She has served on the Board of Trustees three times and been president twice. She has sung in the choir almost as long as she has attended First U. Lee is retired from a career in foster care and adoption and lives in

Sunset Park.



Rachel Stark grew up Lutheran, left religion as a teenager, and only discovered Unitarian Universalism as an adult in their late twenties, desperately in need of both community and a space that didn't ignore the difficult realities of the world we're living in, but still found and fostered hope and a will to work toward a better future. During their time at First U they were a founding member of the Immigrant Solidarity Committee—and, at one point, the committee's co-chair—facilitating cottage meetings to address members' questions and concerns and ultimately

helping lead the congregation to a nearly unanimous vote to become a sanctuary congregation and to host refugee families as they applied for asylum, reunited with children from whom they'd been separated, and worked to establish lives here in NYC or elsewhere in the country. Currently, Rachel is a member of First U's Connections Committee, working to make the congregation a welcoming space for newcomers and returning members and friends alike. Outside of First U, Rachel is a senior editor of award-winning books for children and teens, a dancer, an artist,

an animal lover, and an activist with a particular interest in building queer community and advancing workers' rights.



Jan Thompson has been an active member of First U for six years and the chair of the Green Team for almost five of those. She was excited to give her first homily at a summer service in August of 2023. When Jan first heard about Unitarians as a teenager growing up in Oklahoma she thought to herself that these must be her people, but only found her way here much later. Jan is a digital project manager at the Whitney Museum of American Art.